

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HAVANA 02692 071835Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 HA-05

CA-01 INSE-00 VO-05 /071 W

-----003295 071843Z /47

O 071730Z SEP 78

FM USINT HAVANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3093

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HAVANA 2692

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PDEV SOPN PINT CU

SUBJ: FIDEL CASTRO'S PRESS CONFERENCE WITH CUBAN-AMERICAN JOURNALISTS

FIDEL CASTRO GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE LATE SEPTEMBER 6 TO APPROXIMATELY 25 CUBAN-AMERICAN AND U.S. NETWORK AND WIRE SERVICE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES (PRESS, RADIO, TV). CONFERENCE WILL BE CARRIED ON LOCAL TV THIS EVENING, AND WE WILL REPORT ANY ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND COMMENTS AFTER OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW IT OURSELVES. FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS EMERGED FROM USINT DEBRIEFING THIS MORNING OF TWO JOURNALISTS (BILL LONG AND YOUNGER GUILLERMO MARTINEZ, BOTH MIAMI HERALD) WHO ATTENDED CONFERENCE: A. CASTRO DECLARED THAT NO FURTHER PROGRESS IN RELATIONS WITH U.S. IS POSSIBLE UNTIL EMBARGO IS COMPLETELY LIFTED.

B. HE STATED THAT DEVELOPMENTS (INCLUDING RECENT CONTACTS WITH EXILE GROUPS LIKE ANTONIO MACEO BRIGADE AND OTHERS) HAVE ENCOURAGED HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A REDUCTION OF HOSTILITY TOWARD THE CUBAN REVOLUTION AMONG EXILES ABROAD. AT THE SAME TIME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 HAVANA 02692 071835Z

CASTRO HAS COME TO APPRECIATE MORE FULLY THE CONCERN OF THOSE EXILES. SINCE THE REVOLUTION ITSELF IS SECURE, CASTRO SAID THAT HE WOULD THEREFORE WELCOME INCREASED CONTACTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXILES (OTHER THAN TERRORISTS) TO SEEK SOLUTIONS TO THOSE PROBLEMS. ASIDE FROM THE ANTONIO MACEO BRIGADE, CASTRO MENTIONED REVEREND ESPINOZA, ROSENDY CANTO HERNANDEZ (ORGANIZER

OF A REUNIFICATION GROUP IN SPAIN) AND THE CASA DE LAS AMERICAS IN NEW YORK AS EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE EXILE REPRESENTATIVES FOR THESE CONTACTS.

C. CASTRO IMPLIED THAT RECENT ACTION TO PERMIT DEPARTURE OF DUAL NATIONALS AND CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE GESTURES TO CUBAN EXILES (RATHER THAN USG). HE SAID THEY WERE NOT RESPONSES TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM. HE SUGGESTED THAT FURTHER ACTIONS IN THIS FIELD, INCLUDING FAMILY VISITATION RIGHTS, ARE AMONG TOPICS WHICH COULD BE DISCUSSED IN FUTURE WITH CUBAN EXILES, AND SAID THAT USG WOULD HAVE NO ROLE OTHER THAN TO GRANT ENTRY PERMISSION.

D. CASTRO EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAS NOT APPROVED A GENERAL AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS (HE ADMITTED THAT THERE ARE SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 3,000 STILL IN JAIL). NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID THAT RELEASE OF ALL THESE PRISONERS PLUS FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN FREED (HE GAVE FIGURE OF 15,000) COULD BE DISCUSSED SINCE SOME OF THESE PEOPLE (PERHAPS 25 PERCENT) HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY INTEGRATED INTO CUBA'S REVOLUTIONARY SOCIETY. HE GAVE NO COMMITMENTS, HOWEVER.

E. CASTRO INDICATED THAT HE WAS DISTRESSED BY USG DECISION TO ANNOUNCE THE PRISONER RELEASE PROGRAM IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 HAVANA 02692 071835Z

WASHINGTON, AND ESPECIALLY BY COMMENTS BY U.S. SPOKESMEN THAT PRISONERS WOULD BE SCREENED TO KEEP OUT "SPIES". WHILE REFUSING TO NAME THE PRISONERS ON THE LIST ALREADY PROVIDED TO U.S., HE IMPLIED CLEARLY THAT ANTONIO CUESTA IS INCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE UNDERSTANDS CUESTA CANNOT GET U.S. ENTRY PERMISSION. CASTRO SAID HUBER MATOS IS NOT ON FIRST LIST BUT IS NOT EXCLUDED FROM FUTURE CONSIDERATION.

F. ON OTHER MATTERS, CASTRO DID NOT BUDGE IN HIS REAFFIRMATION OF CUBA'S AFRICAN POLICY. COMPENSATION AND PUERTO RICO ISSUES APPARENTLY DID NOT COME UP, EXCEPT THAT CASTRO AGAIN DENIED ANY SUPPORT FOR PUERTO RICAN TERRORISTS. HE ALSO SOUGHT TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT CUBA HAS NOT SUPPORTED SANDINISTAS BY SAYING THAT THEY DO NOT NEED CUBA'S SUPPORT AND THIS IS AN INTERNAL NICARAGUAN AFFAIR.

G. AS REFLECTION OF HIS NEW ATTITUDE OF OPENNESS TOWARD CUBAN EXILES, CASTRO SAID THEY SHOULD NO LONGER BE CALLED GUSANOS (WORMS), BUT RATHER THE "CUBAN COMMUNITY ABROAD".

LANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 sep 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HAVANA02692
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780364-1135
Format: TEL
From: HAVANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780994/aaaaczzh.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 220a6956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1522316
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIDEL CASTRO'S PRESS CONFERENCE WITH CUBAN-AMERICAN JOURNALISTS FIDEL CASTRO GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE LATE SEPTEMBER
TAGS: PDEV, SOPN, PINT, CU, (CASTRO, FIDEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/220a6956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014